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HOUSE RESOLUTION 174
By Langster

A RESOLUTION To honor and recognize the City of Mound
Bayou, Mississippi.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to those outstanding communities that have contributed to the growth and prosperity of this Nation; and

WHEREAS, The past and present citizens of Mound Bayou, Mississippi are most deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1826, the City of Mound Bayou, Mississippi was originally an experiment in self-government for this country's newly freed African American slaves; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable community is one of only three major all-Black cities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mound Bayou is the home of the prominent Taborian Hospital, which for many years was the only medical facility available to all people in the Delta region of Mississippi; Tennessee's Meharry Medical College provided physicians to Taborian Hospital for several years; and

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WHEREAS, Citizens of Mound Bayou have significantly contributed to the social, cultural, and economic vitality of this great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, One such exemplary native of Mound Bayou is the former pastor of the First Baptist Church Capitol Hill, Reverend Kelly Miller Smith, who was active in the Nashville Civil Rights sit-ins, as well as other social and political reform actions of the 1960s and 1970s; and

WHEREAS, Natives of Mound Bayou have served in key leadership positions in numerous professions, including Administrator of Fisk University; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Thompson and Simmons families are descendents of the first free African American children born in Mound Bayou; these historic families will be celebrating their combined family reunion this year in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, The City of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, in addition to being a vital contemporary community, is an integral part of this country's history, serving as a reminder of both the inhumanity of slavery and the divinity of freedom; and

WHEREAS, Mound Bayou and its citizens are clearly deserving of the admiration and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor the City of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, recognize the considerable achievements of its citizenry, and acknowledge its important place in American history.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.